

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 668

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 6, 2019

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JONES, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Removing Barriers to
3 Colorectal Cancer Screening Act of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Colorectal cancer is the second leading
7 cause of cancer death among men and women com-
8 bined in the United States.

9 (2) In 2019, more than 145,600 Americans will
10 be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and approxi-
11 mately 51,000 Americans will die from it.

12 (3) Approximately 60 percent of colorectal can-
13 cer cases and 70 percent of deaths occur in those
14 aged 65 and older.

15 (4) Colorectal cancer screening colonoscopy al-
16 lows for the detection and removal of polyps, or ab-
17 normal growths, that could become cancerous, as
18 well as for the early detection of colorectal cancer
19 when treatment can be most effective.

20 (5) Although colorectal cancer is largely pre-
21 ventable, one in three adults over the age of 50 are
22 not up to date with recommended colorectal cancer
23 screening.

24 (6) Over 1,700 organizations have committed to
25 eliminating colorectal cancer as a major public
26 health problem and are working toward the shared

1 goal of reaching 80 percent screened for colorectal
2 cancer in every community.

3 (7) Colorectal cancer screening colonoscopy is a
4 highly effective preventive service, and removing fi-
5 nancial barriers can help to increase screening rates.

6 **SEC. 3. WAIVING MEDICARE COINSURANCE FOR**
7 **COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING TESTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1833(a)(1)(Y) of the So-
9 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)(Y)) is amended
10 by inserting “, including a colorectal cancer screening test
11 (regardless of the code that is billed for the establishment
12 of a diagnosis as a result of the test, or for the removal
13 of tissue or other procedure that is furnished in connection
14 with, as a result of, and in the same clinical encounter
15 as the screening test),” after “section 1861(ddd)(3)”.

16 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
17 this section shall apply to items and services furnished
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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